



To: Council
From: Cindy Delgreco, Director of Finance/Treasurer
Date of Meeting: December 13, 2023
Subject: By-Law No. 2023-107 Adopt the 2024 Budget

Recommendation:

That By-law No. 2023-107, being a by-law to set the 2024 general operating and capital budget for corporate purposes, excluding water and wastewater utilities budgets, be read and passed in open Council, signed and sealed this 13th day of December, 2023.

Executive Summary:

Under Section 291 of the Municipal Act, a local municipality may prepare and adopt a budget covering a period of two to five years in the first year to which the budget applies or in the year immediately preceding the first year to which the budget applies. 2006, c. 32, Sched. A, s. 121.

Background:

First Year - The provisions of the budget for the first year to which the multi-year budget applies shall comply with the requirements of section 289 or 290, as the case may be, 2006, c. 32, Sched. A, s. 121.

Other Years, mandatory review of annual budget - For the second and each subsequent year to which a multi-year budget applies, the municipality shall, in the year or the immediately preceding year,

- (a) review the budget for that year;
- (b) make such changes as are required for the purpose of making the provisions of the budget for that year comply with the requirements of section 289, except clause 289 (4) (b), or section 290, except clause 290 (4) (b), as the case may be; and
- (c) readopt the budget for that year and for subsequent years to which the budget applies. 2006, c. 32, Sched. A, s. 121; 2009, c. 18, Sched. 18, s. 3.

The multi-year budget process provides Council with an opportunity to adjust the budgets each year as part of an annual update process. Council will still be required to vote on the annual operating and capital budgets each year.

Through budget deliberations engaging Council and staff, the overall annual Township levy (Taxation and Capital) for 2024 is set at \$9,556,300.

The tax levy represents 46.1% of all revenue (\$20,735,503) for 2024. The Township's budget for operations is \$13,210,012 plus \$1,580,000 being transferred into reserves for future needs. Capital investments for 2024 total \$5,945,491.

Adjustments to the capital program were made to reflect the discussions at Council.

Compared to 2023, the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) estimated a 3.14% growth in assessment values from \$1,724,985,700 to \$1,779,224,400 for the Township.

Additionally, according to Statistics Canada's Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Ontario, there was a 3.1% increase in the cost of living for the period ending October 31st, 2023.

SDG County rates and the Education rates for 2024 have not yet been confirmed.

Based on a \$210,000 assessment value of Median Single Family Residential Property, the overall annual change to residents for the Township portion of tax levy will increase by \$102.12. The tax rate increase is 9.5%, including a 5.5% portion committed for Capital Asset Sustainability, across all property assessment values.

Alignment with Strategic Action Plan:

Goal 4: Exceptional & Accountable Government

Objective 4.1: Continuously improve business processes and practices ensuring open government and financial accountability

Options:

1. That Council adopt By-law No. 2023-107 to set the 2024 general operating and capital budgets for Corporate. This is the recommended option.
2. Council not approve.
3. Council direct the Treasurer to take on additional course of action.

Financial Impact:

Adopting the budget will enable staff to commence planning, including tendering processes, in a more efficient manner.

Others Consulted:

Council, CAO, Directors